

# WARREN SENTINEL



"Jolly Rogers"

WWW.WARREN.AF.MIL

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March 31, 2006

## Guardian Challenge

*Different time, place* 2

## Airmen gone wrong

*How to keep troops on the right track* 5

## WAPS

*What you should know before testing* 23

MEET  
THE GC  
HELO OPS  
TEAM



16



### EASY DOES IT

Airman 1st Class Jacob Bliley and Senior Airman Jon Beier, 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron, slowly lower a reentry vehicle during the Nuclear Surety Inspection, Monday. The NSI is designed to evaluate Warren's capability to manage nuclear resources while complying with all nuclear surety standards. The inspection is scheduled to last until Tuesday.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory

AFSO 21:  
Improving  
the Air  
Force

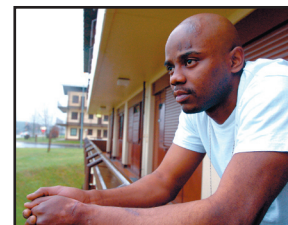
3



Twentieth Air  
Force's  
birthday 12



Airman  
recalls  
horrific  
crash 15





# Commentary

## Guardian Challenge competition continues at different time, place

**Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz**

*Air Force Space Command Vice Commander*

Over the years, Guardian Challenge has played an important role in sustaining and enhancing the combat readiness of our space and missile forces. It has also served to promote the competitive drive and esprit-de-corps so important to developing world-class professionals. However, as we fight the Global War on Terror, the task of staging Guardian Challenge has come face-to-face with the realities of limited funds, scarce military airlift, and competing demands on the time and attention of our people. To meet these challenges, we are making some changes to Guardian Challenge, both this year and in the future.

The first and most significant change is a shift in location and dates of the competition. This year's Guardian Challenge will be held at Peterson AFB from 14–18 Aug instead of at Vandenberg AFB in May. The close proximity of four of our Space Wings to Peterson AFB will save us money and help us avoid potential problems in securing military airlift. In subsequent years, we may return to Vandenberg AFB, or host the event at other locations depending upon conditions at the time.

Another significant change involves the manner in which the competition will be conducted. Fourteenth Air Force has traditionally conducted their competition at the local units. Conversely, Twentieth Air Force has always conducted their competition at Vandenberg AFB. This year however, all competition events, with the exception of Security Forces and helicopters, will be held at their respective units. Evaluations in 14 AF are currently underway; the 20 AF evaluators' travel sched-

ule is already being actively worked. Security Forces will hold their competition in Colorado Springs during Guardian Challenge, while our helicopter crews will compete at Camp Guernsey, WY.

Finally, we will continue to recognize our finest professionals with all the ceremony that has become a traditional part of Guardian Challenge. This year's Curtain Raiser, Contractor Expo, Senior Leader Panel, Score Posting, Awards Ceremony, and Banquet will be held at Peterson AFB. We are excited about this opportunity to transform the way we conduct the competition, meet our readiness objectives, and carry on our tradition of camaraderie and teamwork that have served us so well for over 35 years. I encourage all units to maintain the true spirit of the competition by showing off their competition uniforms, mascots, "specialized equipment" (e.g. bully sticks) and, most of all, the indomitable spirit that characterizes this magnificent command!

## Street Talk

*The Warren Sentinel asked Warren members, "What do you plan to do to unwind after the NSI?"*



"Actually I'm going TDY to Tucson [Ariz.] for the Air Force Sergeants Association."

**- Master Sgt. Gary Moix, 90th Missile Security Forces Squadron**



"Relax -- go study and probably celebrate with my friends in the clinic."

**- Senior Airman Jeannette Collins, 90th Medical Support Squadron**



"Take some time to just relax."

**- Tech. Sgt. Roy Robinson, 321st Missile Squadron**



"I'm probably going snowboarding up in Keystone."

**- Senior Airman Luis Merino-Alvarado, 37th Helicopter Squadron**

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# AFSO 21: Improving the AF one process at a time

**1st Lt. Jennifer Whitaker**

*Air Force Space Command Public Affairs*

**PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo.** - "What have I improved today?"

That's a question Secretary of the Air Force Michael W. Wynne urged Airmen to ask themselves in his March 8 Letter to Airmen titled Air Force Smart Operations 21.

Airmen in Air Force Space Command will soon drive improvements through the AFSO 21 program, which combines the best parts of several civilian efficiency programs, including Lean and Six Sigma, to develop an Air Force-unique process improvement program.

"General (T. Michael) Moseley (Air Force Chief of Staff) has laid out a Transformation Plan for the Air Force," said Col. Deborah A. Kirkhuff, Maintenance Division Chief, AFSPC Directorate of Logistics. Over the next several years the Air Force intends to reduce its force by the equivalent of approximately 40,000 active duty manpower positions. "We've all read about these reductions. Bottom line: AFSO 21 is how the Air Force that remains will become even better than it is today."

The Air Staff's AFSO 21 office has already laid out a plan to move the AF in the "Lean" direction, the colonel said. An Air Force team trained about 100 AFSPC wing, center and Numbered Air Force commanders, along with Headquarters AFSPC directors and deputy directors on AFSO 21 in an executive training session here March 22.

"In order to implement Smart Ops 21, it is absolutely essential that senior leaders be well-versed in Lean and other modern business practices, and then take charge of the Smart Ops 21 process within their own organizations," said Lt. Gen. Frank G. Klotz, AFSPC Vice Commander. "The key thing for all our Airmen to remember

is that AFSO 21 encourages and enables us to find ways to improve our processes so that we eliminate waste and needless duplication."

Improving a process however, entails that we take a good, hard look at how we do business, which means change, the General said.

"Reluctance to change in itself may be one of the hardest obstacles we have to overcome," General Klotz said. "But, just because we've done something the same way for 10, 20 or 30 years, doesn't necessarily mean we must keep on doing so. Technology changes, conditions change, requirements change, our people's skill set changes. So it only makes sense that the work we do and how we do it must also change with the times."

The Air Force has had tremendous success with process improvements in the logistics arena since 2000, Brig. Gen. "Taco" Gilbert, Chief of the Air Staff's AFSO 21 office, told the AFSPC leaders gathered at the base's enlisted club. However, he cautioned against the mindset that AFSO 21 is a logistics program. Instead, he emphasized that all Airmen must realize that "AFSO 21 is about combat power."

"We believe that there isn't a core or enterprise-level process in the command that shouldn't be reviewed for efficiency," Col. Kirkhuff said. "Examples of processes might be your unit-level ancillary training process or scheduling processes."

To date, the command has forwarded three specific tasks to Headquarters Air Force as "win-win" efforts to start AFSPC down the AFSO 21 path, Colonel Kirkhuff said. Two of the tasks, consolidating vehicle ops centers at 20th Air Force units and decreasing fossil fuel consumption by reviewing transportation processes, were chosen because of the opportunity for a quick return on the improvement effort. The third, reviewing acquisition roles and responsibilities between Headquarters AFSPC and the Space



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Ray Moore

**Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz (right), Air Force Space Command Vice Commander, Chief Master Sergeant Ron Kriete, AFSPC Command Chief Master Sergeant and Brig. Gen. Richard Webber, (left) AFSPC Director of Mission Support, participate in an Air Force Smart Ops 21 training session March 22. A team of AFSO 21 experts introduced about 100 AFSPC leaders to concepts of process improvement that will help Air Force leaders meet the challenges of carrying out future missions with fewer resources.**

and Missile Systems Center, on the other hand, will take greater effort and time to see improvement.

"Relatively small-scale AFSO 21 events give us the chance to train some folks on the basics of AFSO 21 and introduce them to 'value stream mapping,'" Colonel Kirkhuff said. "Some of us might recall the 'spaghetti charts' of the past. Value stream mapping is similar to that."

Although the program doesn't have a specific implementation date, Colonel Kirkhuff said the end goal is a culture change in which Airmen feel they are part of the Air Force's constant improvement. Most importantly, our people need to realize and understand that continuous process improvement will be ingrained into the new way we do business in the Air Force.

Secretary Wynne said AFSO 21 asks Airmen to look at not only how they can improve each task, but also ask why things are done that way. He encouraged Airmen to begin seeking improvements in their day-to-day business

as soon as practical.

"Is each of the tasks relevant, productive and value-added?" he wrote. "In other words is it necessary at all? With AFSO 21, we will march unnecessary work out the door -- forever."

Colonel Kirkhuff has some practical advice for Airmen who want to become involved in the AFSO 21 program.

"Be thinking about what you would make better if you were king for a day," she said. "There may never be another time in our Air Force to have our senior leadership so open to change. General Moseley has said nothing is off limits. Realistically, you might want to focus on those activities you can change at your level."

The colonel said the best resource available to Airmen is the AFSO 21 web site at [www.afso21.hq.af.mil](http://www.afso21.hq.af.mil).

The site includes links to briefings and real-world examples of Lean activities that resulted in better ways of doing business.

Many Airmen may wonder if the existing IDEA program fits into AFSO 21.

"You could probably say

the IDEA program is a subset of AFSO 21 -- it's all of us seeking to do our business better," Colonel Kirkhuff said.

She said AFSO 21 handles large, enterprise-level process improvements, while the IDEA program typically targets a specific part of the process -- usually because it is a single individual with a good idea.

"AFSO 21 encourages using groups of stakeholders and those involved in the process every day," she said. "It is about finding out what parts of the process actually add value and what parts do not and are then considered waste."

The fundamental premise for AFSO 21 is that all Airmen will seek continuous improvements for the way they do business, Colonel Kirkhuff said.

"From shop chiefs to major command four-stars, we must make our day-to-day operations more efficient," she said. "AFSO 21 is how the Air Force that remains (after personnel reductions) will become even better than it is today."

FPA



# What happens to some good Airmen

**Retired Chief Master Sgt.  
Joe Lavigne**  
*Davis-Monthan Air Force Base*

**DAVIS-MONTHAN AIR  
FORCE BASE, Ariz.** — Every time I review a discharge package for a young Airman who went down the wrong path, I ask myself how we failed.

That's right, how did we fail? You may think I am a bit off, since it was the Airman who violated the standards, not the rest of us. It was the Airman who showed up late for work or failed to make a mandatory appointment, not us.

So how did the Airman ever get to the point of being discharged? After all, the Airman made it through our basic training. If basic training ever was a simple ticket to punch on the way to "the real Air Force," this is not the case anymore.

The military training instructors are tough. Just ask one of the chiefs or first sergeants who have gone to Warrior Week during the past year. The regimen is strict. The trainees (they do not earn the privilege of being called Airmen until they graduate from Warrior Week) are up early, take part in physical training six days a week and work hard right up until the lights go out at night.

After earning their Airman's Coin during a very emotional Warrior Week graduation ceremony, the Airmen finish basic and head off, in most cases, to their technical school. Granted, the reins are loosened up a bit when they leave Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, but they are still held to a high standard, and they have to be focused to pass the academic portion of their technical schools.

Finally, the Airmen arrive at their first duty station. Maybe they

**"START OUR AIRMEN OFF ON THE RIGHT FOOT. BE A GREAT SPONSOR TO THEM; HELP THEM GET SETTLED INTO THEIR NEW SURROUNDINGS; TURN CHALLENGES INTO OPPORTUNITIES."**

**- Retired Chief Master Sgt. Joe Lavigne**  
*Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz.*

are lucky enough to have a sponsor appointed before they arrive. Maybe their sponsor actually meets them (in uniform) at the airport, and maybe their sponsor takes the time to sit down and go over the standards and expectations before turning them loose. Maybe not.

Here is how the scenario usually plays out. Their sponsor shows up to meet them in shorts and a T-shirt. It's easy to spot "their troop" because our Airman shows up proudly wearing a service dress uniform.

The sponsor walks over to Airman Newbie and introduces himself/herself: "Tom/Susie (that's Airman Newbie's first name), I'm Bill/Laura (what the sponsor meant to say was Staff Sergeant Smith). Welcome to your new home!"

After the gathering of Airman Newbie's luggage comes the ride to base, during which Bill explains to Tom how terrible things can be. After all, there are countless exercises, inspections, deployments, visits and long hours because many Airmen in the shop are deployed. Furthermore, there is not a whole lot of time left, nor is there a lot for an 18-year-old to do off duty.

Then, Bill drops Tom off at the dorm where the first person he runs

into is Airman Sometime, who is being discharged for minor disciplinary actions. Naturally, Airman Sometime is the resident barracks lawyer and personnelist, and proceeds to give Airman Newbie the "real story" about the base.

Bill introduces Tom to everyone in the workcenter, and after some inprocessing actions they all head off base in their battle dress uniforms for lunch at a nice sit-down restaurant. Airman Newbie seems confused because there are a lot of civilians in business attire. He remembers being told that BDUs should only be worn off base for short convenience stops or to fast food restaurants and establishments where similar attire is worn.

No worries, because according to the sponsor, this is the "real Air Force" and Airman Newbie needs to forget all that stuff he/she was taught up until this point in his/her short, yet structured, career.

If this seems far-fetched to you, wake up! It happens every day, and that is where we fail our young Airmen. So, how do we fix this problem?

First, start our Airmen off on the right foot. Be a great sponsor to them; help them get settled into their new surroundings; turn chal-

lenges into opportunities. In other words, meet them at the airport in uniform. Let them know they are part of the best and busiest organization in the Air Force.

Tell them that although they will be extremely busy, they will be contributing to an organization that has an outstanding reputation and work ethic, and we need them to give 100 percent effort if we hope to maintain our reputation.

Next, adopt the motto used at many technical training centers: "Train 'em right, train to fight." In other words, set your troops up for success, not failure. Ensure they understand their role in the upgrade training process. Make sure they know who to contact if they are having trouble understanding; surround them with successful Airmen. And, follow up on their progress.

Third, lead by example. Ensure you are in compliance with dress and appearance standards. Polish your boots. Replace the "world tour" T-shirt you wear with your BDUs with an authorized one. Comply with the spirit and intent of Air Force instructions. Make sure you are living up to the roles and responsibilities for your current grade, as they are outlined in Air Force guidance.

Finally, help them understand they are Airmen 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year. That means 100 percent compliance with standards, 100 percent of the time, not just when they are at their workcenter.

If, after all this, one of your Airmen still does not get it, then help him/her out the gate, and back into civilian life. You can do so with your head held high, knowing you were the solution, not a part of the problem.

Briefs

Gate 5 open

Gate 5, off of Central Avenue, is open for inbound morning traffic from 6 to 8 a.m. weekdays, excluding holidays. In addition, the gate will be open 30 minutes prior to show time on delayed reporting days. Personnel traveling from the north are encouraged to use Gate 5 during their morning commute. Outbound traffic will continue to use gates 1 and 2. Gate 5 is for military/civilian issued ID cardholders only. Personnel needing passes must still use the Visitor Control Center at Gate 1.

For more information, contact the 90th Security Forces Squadron Operations Section at 773-2473.

PCS tax claim

Some military personnel who have filed claims are receiving a Form 1099-MISC for payment they may have received. Payment for military claims is not considered ordinary income and is not taxable. Follow the instructions on the 1099, right hand corner of the form in order to avoid unnecessary taxes. When submitting the description of the problem, simply state, "this was a claim for moving damage or other personal damage paid by the Air Force and not ordinary income."

For more information, call the 90th Space Wing Legal office at 773-2050 or the tax center at 773-5829.

Volunteer Excellence Award nominations

The deadline for nominations for the Volunteer Excellence Award is April 14. If you have a civilian in your squadron, or know of a family member or military/civilian retiree who has faithfully served in their communities, take time out of your busy schedule to recognize them.

Attach two pictures of the nominee to the nomination form.

The nomination forms can be picked up at the Family Support Center.

For more information, contact Mary Brown at 773-5941.

Road closure

Parts of Randall Avenue will be closed Tuesday through April 10. This closure is for the repairs of the railroad tracks crossing Randall Avenue west of Freedom Drive, south of the Atlas Housing area.

For more information, call Clark Varnum at 773-3271, Harry Furrey at 773-3539 or the construction management office at 773-2288.

PSD: The new way the AF does business

Capt. Tara White  
90th Mission Support Squadron

A new initiative, the Personnel Services Delivery Transformation, will soon change the way the Air Force does personnel business.

Beginning today, PSD will use technology to put routine personnel transactions into the hands of Airmen using Web base, fax, phone, contact centers and even regular mail.

"We have historically provided personnel services through face-to-face contact, and we do it well," said Lt. Gen. Roger Brady, Air Force Personnel Center Deputy Chief of Staff. "In the future, PSD will provide a new way of

doing business ... one that will become more efficient by moving transactional work to the Web or contact centers."

PSD is broken down into seven spirals between today and December 2007. However, a spiral won't be released to the field if it has a flaw that hasn't been worked out. A complete review of the personnel system was done by Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pa. Currently the military personnel flight has 35 different processes; however in the future, only 17 processes will be done by the MPF.

AFPC has created a contact center manned by highly-trained personnel specialists and are available by phone

24 hours a day, seven days a week.

PSD will shorten the usual time it takes to complete a process at the MPF. This use of existing technology will eliminate the loss of duty time by Airmen traveling to and from the MPF. Several processes such as retraining and retirements, currently worked by the base MPF, will be self-initiated via the Web and centrally managed and processed at the AFPC contact center in San Antonio.

PSD gives Airmen and civilians convenient and secure access to AFPC via the Air Force portal, eliminates waiting in lines and allows them to fit their personnel business into their own schedule.

Laramie County School District #1  
Kindergarten roundup schedule

School	Date	Time
Afflerbach	April 20	5:30 to 7 p.m.
Alta Vista	April 18	6 to 7 p.m.
Anderson	April 18	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Arp	April 17	8:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Baggs	April 17	3:30 to 7 p.m.
Bain	April 20	5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Buffalo Ridge	April 21	9 a.m.
Cole	April 18	6 p.m.
Davis	April 19	6:30 p.m.
Deming	April 19	3 p.m.
Dildine	April 20	8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Freedom	April 18	6 to 7 p.m.
Goins	April 17	4 p.m.
Hebard	April 18	2 to 6 p.m.
Henderson	April 19	9 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Hobbs	April 18	6 p.m.
Jessup	April 18	6 p.m.
Lebhart	April 18	6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Pioneer Park	April 18	1:30 p.m.
Rossman	April 18	6 to 7 p.m.
Gilchrist	April 19	3:30 p.m.



April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month  
Month designed to raise awareness and promote prevention of sexual violence

Article courtesy Sexual Assault Response Coordinator office

Nationally, April is observed as Sexual Assault Awareness Month as a way to raise awareness about sexual assault and to promote prevention of sexual violence through special events and public education.

The DoD theme for 2006 SAAM

is "Sexual Assault Prevention Begins With You." This slogan serves to remind everyone that each individual can play a role - as a leader, a teacher, a friend or co-worker - in sexual assault prevention. New DoD policies addressing sexual assault prevention and response seek to establish a climate of confidence in which:

- Sexual assault and the at-

titudes that promote it are not tolerated.

- Victims of sexual assault receive the care and support that they need

- The offenders are held accountable for their actions

Everyone is encouraged to learn more about the issue of sexual assault and prevention. For more information, contact the Warren Sexual Assault Response Coordinator at 773-3483 or through the 24-hour sexual assault reporting hotline at 773-6444.

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Full Page ad





Photo by Staff Sgt. Chenzira Mallory

## DETAIL MAN

Staff Sgt. Michael Kelly, 90th Missile Maintenance Squadron, marks the outer container of a weapon during the Nuclear Surety Inspection Monday. The inspection is scheduled to last until Tuesday. The NSI affects the entire base from protocol issues to dining facility hours.

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Full Page Ad







FPA



# Airman recalls crash that cost him two friends

## Driver fell asleep at wheel, no drinking was involved

**Senior Airman Amaani Lyle**  
52nd Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs

**SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany** -- Black sneakers. Boston baseball cap. Black shirt. Boots.

"It's so clear, I can still remember what they were wearing," recalls Airman 1st Class Skyler Burts, of his friends and fellow firemen who perished in a single-vehicle automobile accident in August 2005.

The memories, much like the scar tissue etched across Airman Burts' forehead, are probably permanent. Still, the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron Firefighter cited faith, friends and family for helping him cope with the life-changing ordeal.

Spangdahlem Air Base's central location and idyllic country drives to several nearby countries make road trips common among Airmen of all ranks.

So when 52 CES Firefighters Senior Airman Timothy Alford and Airman 1st Class Erik Salazar opted to take a drive to a popular nightclub near the German-Netherlands border, Airman Burts obliged to join them.

He even offered his car. The decision would alter the course of three lives.

Airman Burts said he and his two friends stayed at the club dancing and socializing until nearly 6 a.m. the next morning. Airman Alford was known to frequent clubs and stay out late, without ever having a drop of alcohol. This particular night was no exception.

"Tim just always knew how to have a good time -- completely sober," Airman Burts said. "He had so much energy that he'd

usually only need a 30- or 40-minute power nap and he was cool."

Winding down from the club, the Airmen decided to listen to music on the drive back to base.

"We had the CD player going because I had just bought some new music I wanted Tim to hear," Airman Burts said. "We also had it playing loud enough that I figured it would keep everyone awake."

But a lack of sleep soon overtook each of them. In an instant, a "power nap" became the division between a normal life and complete chaos.

Airman Burts said he awoke from a short snooze with his eyes blurry.

He wiped them, thinking they were unfocused because he'd slept for a little while.

Autobahn lights illuminated a jarring amount of blood that covered his hand as he pulled it away from his head and eye. He turned to Airman Alford, who lay motionless slumped over the steering wheel.

"What the hell [did] you just hit, man," Airman Burts woozily asked.

Airman Burts' first thought was that the vehicle had struck some wildlife in the road. He immediately slapped a non-responsive Airman Alford to wake him.

His shock and terror intensified when he looked in the back seat of the sedan, only to find it empty.

"The back door was completely off the hinges and Erik was nowhere to be found," he said. "Right then and there, I started flipping out," the Airman said. "I didn't care what might have been wrong with me -- I just ran into the middle of the

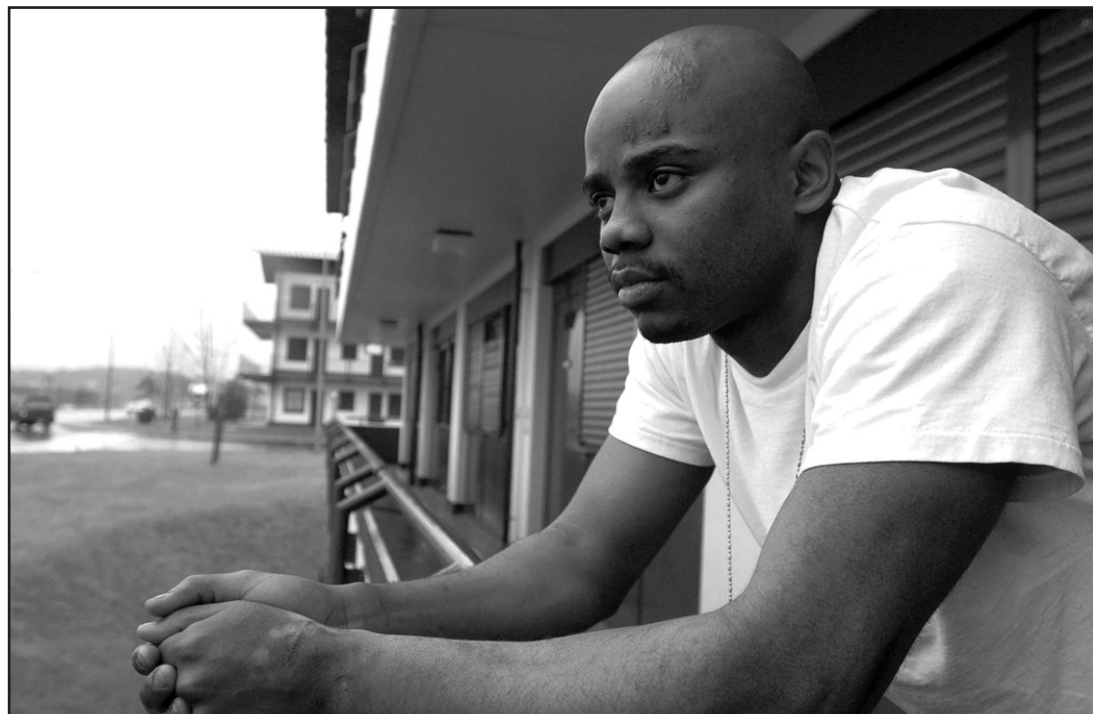


Photo by Senior Airman Amaani Lyle

**Airman 1st Class Skyler Burts rests on a banister at his dormitory at Spangdahlem, Air Base, Germany. He still bears the scars from the single-vehicle accident and the hand and arm surgery that followed.**

Autobahn to wave down anyone who could call for help."

Help soon arrived, and as blood continued to run into his eye, Airman Burts directed emergency response units to Airman Alford, and also managed to spot Airman Salazar clinging to life about 50 feet away from the scene.

Adrenaline surged through his body as he explained to paramedics what he remembered of the accident, but responders soon realized Airman Burts had a concussion and they remained concerned he might pass out.

"Are my friends OK?" Airman Burts repeatedly asked as Airman Alford, through crushed ribs, emitted a choke and gurgle as paramedics pumped his chest.

### They're gone

"On the way to the hospital, one of the paramedics kept asking me about my family to keep me awake," Airman Burts said. "I knew she didn't want me to fall asleep, but I wasn't really thinking about my family, I just thought about Tim and Erik and what I was going to tell their families."

Sleep was the last

thing on his mind when he arrived at the hospital.

"I just kept asking, what about my friends, what about my friends?"

A doctor emerged with a response.

"Your friends are gone," he said.

"Gone where? To another hospital?"

"No. Just gone ... forever," the doctor replied. He said Airman Alford died at the scene and Airman Salazar died shortly upon arrival to the hospital.

Reality set in when a 52nd Security Forces Squadron member brought him a bag containing his deceased friends' blood-soaked cell phones and money.

A subsequent investigation revealed that Airman Alford's fatigue after a long night of clubbing was the sole cause of the mishap.

Master Sgt. James Douglas, 52 Fighter Wing Ground Safety Manager, explained the vehicle, traveling at a high rate of speed, continued straight as the Autobahn lane curved right. The vehicle slid about 25-feet along the top of a dipped guardrail before slamming into a light pole. The car then spun 180 degrees, and returned to the guardrail before crashing

back onto the road.

Airman Salazar, not wearing a seatbelt, was thrown from the car, and the steering wheel fatally crushed Airman Alford's ribcage. Most of the car was destroyed except for the passenger seat where Airman Burts sat.

### Road to recovery

"I thank God for every day that I'm here," Airman Burts said. "Some people wondered if I could kill myself after something like this, but I could never kill myself. My life is too precious. Tomorrow's a better day."

During the next couple of weeks and his subsequent transfer to the Bitburg Annex Hospital, Airman Burts said he found himself showered with the friendship, caring and concern of his fellow wing members.

"I really have to thank the fire department, the Saint Vith and Bitburg Annex hospital staffs, and so many others who helped me get through this to keep me sane without pitying me," Airman

# Meet the Guardian Challenge Helo Ops team

## Crew must wait to train until 30 days before competition

**Capt. Nicole Walters**  
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

This year's Guardian Challenge helicopter aircrew is Capt. Jake "Shaft" Brittingham, Aircraft Commander; 1st Lt. Bryan "Tunes" Tuinman, Copilot; and Airman 1st Class Charles "Chuck-D" Davis, Flight Engineer.

This will be the first competition for each crew member, and they are extensively knowledgeable of the tasks involved during the helicopter competition and the aircrews with which they will be competing.

The helicopter competition consists of precision hover maneuvers during which the crews will have to negotiate a weight

suspended from the aircraft through a narrow obstacle course arranged on the ground, a flight scenario where they will navigate through unfamiliar territory by way of specific checkpoints while reaching the final location within 15 seconds of a predetermined time and an aircraft reconfiguration where they will scramble to overhaul and inspect the aircraft for a specific type of mission.

The crew has not yet begun training because they are restricted from training until within 30 days of the competition.

Once inside this window, they are allotted 10 flying hours: four training flights. This may not seem like a lot of time, but the crew is not worried because they perform these maneuvers while flying their daily missions.

Captain Brittingham believes that his crew has a huge advantage.

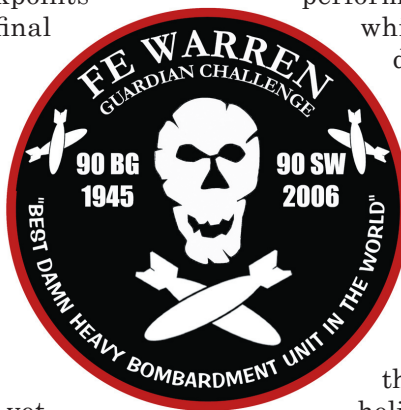
"Everyday we operate in conditions that are more demanding than any of the other helicopter squadrons," said Captain Brittingham.

"Aircraft performance is derogated at our higher altitudes and the

Wyoming winds demand a steady hand."

The Air Force Space Command helicopter community is small, and the Warren crew is very familiar with the competition. Most of the aircrew members who will be present for the competition deployed together to the gulf coast last year in support of hurricane relief operations.

"I know the Minot and Vandenberg crews very well. Most of us are friends from flight school and various TDYs, and I went to college with one of the Vandy pilots," said Captain Brittingham. "Heckling has been very minor so far. Everyone is more excited for the reunion, but there will be trouble once we're in place and we've all gotten acquainted again."





# Yellowstone offers military discounts

## Trailer program offered through Mountain Home AFB ODR

### Courtesy article

Yellowstone National Park is a popular summer destination for military members, and discounts are still available for the 2006 season.

There are a number of campgrounds within the park, but reservations must be made at least several months in advance.

The Yellowstone Country Trailer Program has trailers

offered by Mountain Home Air Force Base's Outdoor Recreation office in Idaho. There are 13 trailers currently available for rent. The trailers include water, sewer, gas and electricity, already connected. The trailers are also equipped with dishes, pots and pans and other accessories to make a kitchen functional.

"We will have more than 400 families take advantage of this program,"

stated Mark Lothrop, the Outdoor Recreation Director at Mountain Home. "We are open from Memorial Day through mid-September, with the 13 trailers at two great locations."

Flagg Ranch, located just outside the south entrance to the park, has timbered sites and is located near both Yellowstone National Park and Grand Teton National Park. The rate for Flagg Ranch is \$73 a night.

Lionshead Resort, with its five trailers, is eight miles from the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The lodging rate at Lionshead is \$60 a night.

While this may sound expensive for camping, the set up and installation of the trailers is complete. Since the trailers have fully functioning kitchens including an oven, refrigerator and

microwave, a family can enjoy substantial savings over dining out. Motels in the area charge more than \$100 a night and do not have spots for evening campfire or cooking.

To make a reservation or request a brochure, contact the Mountain Home AFB Outdoor Recreation office at (208)828-6333 or DSN 728-6333.

**TO MAKE A RESERVATION OR REQUEST A BROCHURE, CONTACT THE MOUNTAIN HOME AFB OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICE AT (208)828-6333 OR DSN 728-6333.**

## Warren Commissary Three-Day Sale

**Today to Sunday**

For more information,  
contact the  
Warren Commissary at  
773-2427.



your family  
your health  
your kids  
your budget  
your strength  
your friends  
your readiness  
your unit  
your country



Need support? Want quit information? Want to hear how someone else quit?  
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Questions? Contact the HAWC 773-4267

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# Lt describes inner workings of 90 CS

## Deputy commander of plans and programs flight is highly involved in CAPEX preparation

*First Lt. Adam Aasen of the 90th Communications Squadron recently sat down with Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon, 90th Space Wing Public Affairs, to talk about CAPEX, the inner workings of the 90 CS and why getting his commission meant so much to him.*

### What do you do at the 90th Communications Squadron?

I am the deputy commander of the plans and programs flight. Basically, I help run the flight. Right now I'm highly involved in CAPEX. I am the communications representative for plans and programs.

### What are you doing after CAPEX?

I'll go back to doing what I normally do in here; we do a lot of communications projects. Any time someone has a communication requirement on base they submit that requirement here and we run it through the comm squadron and get all the approvals. Say you want to get your computer hooked up in a room, and there's nowhere to plug it in. Submit that to our flight and we run it through the proper people for you.

### What's the best part about your job?

I'd have to say the best part about this job is I get to interact with a large part of the base populous. It's kind of cool because you get to see how different parts of the base work and [you also] get that customer service experience. It can be pretty rewarding when you get stuff accomplished.

### What did you do before the Air Force?

I went to college full time, but I also worked with my father who owns a roofing company in California. I graduated from San Jose State University.

### What do you think other people misunderstand or take for granted about your job?

When [people] think of comm, all they think about is computers and telephones. But we do a lot

more than that especially down here in this flight. We have a lot to do with projects that are going on around base. We work pretty closely with CE. We [recently] had a merger with the maintenance group, so all our missile field communications stuff went over to the maintenance group.

### What do you do when you're not working?

I like to go hiking and I snowboard. I spend a lot of time with my wife.

### Who's your hero?

My dad is my hero because he served his country, and when he was done with that he pursued his education with his GI Bill. Now he's pretty much built his own business that's very successful. He does a lot to help not only the local community but his employees, too. It's very inspirational the way he helps people above and beyond. And the cool thing is he worked long hours when I was a kid -- trying to build his business -- but he was always there for us kids.

### When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

I actually wanted to be a pilot. My grandfather was a pilot in the Korean War, and he served 20 years in the Air Force. He always had awesome stories to tell us when we were little kids. It was just something I always wanted to do. It didn't work out, but that's OK. I really like what I do.

### What's the biggest honor you've ever had?

The biggest honor I've ever had was actually earning my commission through ROTC. It was something I knew I wanted to do for a long time. I got my commission, and [gave] my grandfather my first salute.

### What activities do you participate in on base?

I play flag football; I'm on the intramural racquetball team right now, although we're not doing very hot right now.



Photo by Airman 1st Class Tessa Cubbon

**First Lt. Adam Aasen, 90th Communications Squadron Plans and Programs Flight Deputy Commander, points to the location of where the joint operations center and joint information center will be located during the CAPEX exercise in June.**

### What's your favorite part about working at Warren?

As a communications officer, you have a huge opportunity to learn a lot of different things because the mission here is different than a typical base. We have all the base functions like computers and phones, but we also have this entire mission out in the missile field: thousands of square miles of communications equipment to support. It's very old technology, but, at the same time, it's pretty cool to see how it all works. It's a challenge to keep everything going, especially when it's so far away.

### Do you go to the field often?

Not in my current job. In past

jobs I went out to the field every so often, watch [comm troops] do maintenance.

### How long have you been in the Air Force?

It's been about two years and seven months.

### What do you hope to do with your life?

I'm still undecided right now. I would say that I would like to stay in as a career [officer] but it would really depend on how my next few assignments go and how the family situation is. Once I decide to have kids it could change my outlook. For now, I really enjoy what I do, and I could see myself doing this for my career.

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## Honor guard training

Dedicated, professional men and women are needed to serve Warren's Elite Honor Guard and Drill Team. A training class is scheduled for April 17 to 21.

For more information, call 773-2686.

## Boxing exhibition

Come to the community center 7 p.m. April 14 for a Boxing Exhibition.

The Warren Boxing Team will be showing off their skills in exhibition matches. Snacks will be available.

For more information, call 773-3510.

## Ski Keystone

The last ski trip of the season is April 8 at Keystone Resort in Colorado. Outdoor recreation has discounted tickets available.

Trip includes ticket, transportation and equipment. For Liberty Pass holders, transportation is \$15. The trip departs 5:30 a.m. and returns approximately 8 p.m.

For more information, call ODR at 773-2988.

## Easter Egg hunt

Children ages 12 and younger are invited to the annual base egg hunt 10 a.m. April 8 at the community center. Hunts are arranged by age group. Families are invited to stay following the hunt to visit the Easter Bunny and win door prizes.

For more information, call 773-3511.

## Master's Team Play

The Master's Team Play Golf Tournament is scheduled for April 8 at the Warren Golf Course. Sign up as a single or a foursome.

Draw a PGA Tour Pro playing at the Master's as your partner! The cost is \$15 for members and \$25 for non-members.

For more information, call 773-3556.

## Roger Rabbit Family Night

A Roger Rabbit Family Night is scheduled for 5 p.m. Wednesday at the Trail's End Club. The cost is \$6.95 for club members and \$8.95 for non-members. Children ages 6 to 10 are \$3.95 and ages 5 and

younger are free. The night will include barbecue, games, movies and door prizes. Reservations are recommended.

For more information, call 773-3048.

## Cuddle bears class

The Warren Multi Crafts Center is holding a cuddle bears Easter ceramic class from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday. The class is \$10. Children under the age of 16 cannot be left unattended. At least one parent must accompany child/children.

For more information, call 773-3754.

## Martial arts classes

Shorin-Ryu/Okinawan classes are held 6:30 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays at the community center. The cost is \$30 per person, and \$65 for a family of four. Kevin Vance, a third-degree black belt, is the instructor.

For more information, contact the community center at 773-3510.

## Joining Forces at Six Flags

Joining Forces, open to

active duty, guard, reserve, retirees, DoD civilians, base contractors, family members and friends, is at Six Flags and is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 15. Tickets are now available at outdoor recreation for \$19 per person and include lunch and a free return ticket for September or October.

Regular weekend park admission price is \$44.99. Bus transportation is \$10 while seats are available. Sign-up while purchasing your tickets. Parking at the park is \$10 per car.

For more information, call ODR at 773-2988.

## Burger Meal Deal day

Lunch at Warren Lanes every Monday is \$5. Get a choice of burger, fries or chips and a fountain soda with one refill.

## Free lunchtime bowling

Bowl two free games, shoes included, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays when \$5 is spent at the snack bar.

## Music lessons

Learn to play the drums,

bass and six or 12 string guitar (electric and acoustic) at the community center. Classes are scheduled for 6 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays, and 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. The cost is \$50 per month and includes four half-hour classes.

For more information, call 773-3511.

## Youth baseball and tee ball registration

Tee ball registration for kids ages 5 and 6 is going on now through April 14. The cost is \$40 per child and includes uniform and awards.

All baseball, tee ball participants and their family members are invited to the post season banquet in August.

For more information, call 773-2564.

## Massage at the aquatic center

The aquatic center offers massages for \$45 per hour and \$25 per half hour.

For more information or to make an appointment, call 773-3195.

## The Weighted Airmen Promotion System

**Staff Sgt. Coletta Walkemeyer**  
90th Mission Support Squadron

What everyone should know before testing:

1. It is the individual's responsibility to take the time to review his data verification rip for accuracy. It only takes one missing or erroneous item to put a promotion in jeopardy

2. The individual needs to ensure he reviews the annual WAPS Catalog (published in August) to check availability and receipt of correct study materials.

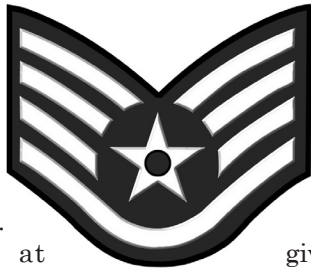
This can be found at <https://www-r.omsq.af.mil/te/WAPSCAT.pdf>.

3. It is also the individual's responsibility to ensure he has the current study materials at least 60 days prior to the start of the testing cycle. If items are not received, the individual needs to contact his commander's support section and/or the promotions office at 773-3787.

4. If you do not have testing materials, do not sign for a test date.

By signing for the date, the person waives the right to have access to study materials for 60 days prior to testing.

5. If the individual has been deployed for 90 days or more, he has 60 days access to study material upon return prior to testing. If an individual signs for a test date, he waves his 60 days access to study material.



6. Individuals must be prepared to test the first day of the testing cycle.

7. Individuals must understand all provisions of test compromise and not

give out any information gained through testing to unauthorized individuals.

8. Individuals need to notify the test proctor of any condition which may prevent them from doing their best or finishing the test.

9. Individuals must be in a military uniform to test.

10. Individuals must have a military identification card with them in the testing room in order to test.

## Education briefs

### Education fair

An education fair is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 12 at Fall Hall.

More than 20 colleges and universities will be available to answer questions and help base personnel find the right program for them. Information will be available on many degree and certificate options including emergency medical technician, homeland security and fire science. Learn about Troops to Teachers and Spouses to Teachers. Door prizes will be given.

### Strong and MBTI available

The Strong Interest Inventory and Myers Briggs Type Indicator are available to take through the Warren Education Center.

For more information, contact Guidance Counselor Sharon Edwards at 773-4889.

### Commissioning workshop

Are you active-duty enlisted and interested in becoming a commissioned officer? The Warren Education Center is presenting a commissioning workshop at 2 p.m. April 11 in Room 24 of the education center.

For more information and to pre-register for the workshop, call the education center at 773-2117.

### Attention University of Phoenix students

A University of Phoenix representative is scheduled to be available from 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays in Room 28 of the education center to meet with students.

### Online tuition assistance briefings

The Warren Education Center will conduct briefings at 2 p.m. Fridays at the education center to provide information on the new Air Force Portal/Air Force Virtual Education Center On-Line Tuition.

For more information, call 773-2117.

## Crash, From Page 15

Burts said.

Airman Burts said wing leaders also reached out to show their support.

"Chief Kelly told me that God kept me here for a reason -- to realize my potential," Airman Burts said of Chief Master Sgt. Jimmy Kelly, 52 FW Command Chief.

Other close friends also

availed themselves to help Airman Burts cope.

"I reassured him that this wasn't his fault, and I would be there to help any way I could," said Tech. Sgt. Roderick Milbrooks, 52 CES Station captain. "I'm a big brother for him to lean on, until he can stand alone and deal with the

horrific accident that took two wonderful people too soon."

Making such a difference in someone's life is apparently all in a day's work for firefighters.

"His extended firefighter family was there for him -- but we only did, without a moment's hesitation, what any other

firefighter would have done," said Master Sgt. James Wenger, 52 CES Assistant Fire Chief of Operations.

Perhaps the best guidance of all came from Airman Salazar's mother, Gabriela Rojas.

"His mother called and told me she's heartbroken that her son is gone, but

she can still find happiness in her life," Airman Burts said. "She said, 'Remember that you're still alive -- live your life.'"

Airman Burts said he plans to do just that.

"All I need is to embrace my life, my wife and my son," he said. "I don't need nothin' else," he said.

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